

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-18, and 23-27 are pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 13-18 and 23-25. Claims 1, 8-12, and 26-27 have been cancelled with this response. The cancellation of claims 1, 8-12, and 26-27 removes all rejected claims from consideration, and thereby is believed to place the application into condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 8-12, AND 26-27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 8-12, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0120339 (Ronciak) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0249998 (Rajagopalan et al.). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 8-12, and 26-27 are cancelled with this response, thereby rendering the above issue moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 8-12, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

As the rejected claims are now canceled, all remaining claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, AMDP772US.

Respectfully submitted,
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